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BOOK NOTICES.

Britain and the British Seas, by H. J. Mackinder, *Reader in Geography in the University of Oxford. In Appleton's World Series. 8vo, 377 pp. 6 colored maps, 132 maps and diagrams.*

We have other works which deal with the physical history of Britain, as those of Ramsay and Woodward on the geology, or of Geikie and Lord Avebury on the scenery, but this is, perhaps, the most compact and philosophical treatment of British geography. The subjects of the earlier chapters are: the Position of Britain, the British Seas, the Submarine Platform and the Movement of the Waters. The physiography of the land follows under several heads. While these chapters are mainly devoted to physical features, we find frequent reference to the distinctively human aspects of geography. Thus (p. 15) the isolation caused by the various marine waters of Britain has begotten the provincialism, which in turn has provided the varied initiative that gives meaning to liberty. This is a broad mode of treatment which we should expect from Mr. Mackinder.

Both structure and denudation are adequately recognized in the discussion of the land-forms. Physiographers will turn with special interest to Chapter IX, the Rivers of Britain. Here the modern principles of river adjustment are duly recognized. A comprehensive and easily-remembered system of longitudinal and transverse streams is described. Longitudinal streams run between the Pennine-Cambrian range and the Jurassic escarpment and between the Jurassic and Cretaceous lines of upland. There are three sets of transverse streams flowing southeastward, respectively from the Pennine-Cambrian heights, from the Jurassic, and from the Cretaceous escarpments. The reader who has even an elementary knowledge of English geology thus grasps at once the meaning of the English rivers, while a reader of Green's rather full account of the same streams, in his *Short Geography of the British Isles*, is left quite in the dark as to their origin and significance. The "water-gap" and "wind-gap," and the meaning of consequent and subsequent drainage, are well set forth, with the Thames and its branches as a type case. More brief, but resting on a rational basis still, is the explanation of the river systems of Scotland and Ireland.

Chapters X and XI give an account of British meteorology,

racial geography, historical geography; Metropolitan England and Industrial England are some of the subjects which follow. The essential physical characteristics of Britain are insularity, accessibility, diversity of the east and west, productive soil and climate, the coal, and the tidal rivers. These are the material secrets of Britain's greatness.

The division into Metropolitan or Southeastern, and Industrial or Northwestern England (Chapters XIV and XV) is of great interest. They are separated by a line drawn from the mouth of the Severn to the Wash. It is true of Metropolitan England that the roads centre upon London; that the coast line faces the continent, and that there is little coal or other source of power. The region is therefore commercial and residential. In Industrial England rich and poor are workers; there are few men of leisure; the country is newer and more democratic, and does not always follow the political or religious leadership of the metropolitan region. These are not unfamiliar facts, but they are developed sharply and in their true relation to physical history. The volume is indispensable to the student of British geography or history, as to the traveller who wishes the fullest appreciation of this small but richly significant land.

The entire series is edited by Mr. Mackinder. Among the projected volumes are: Western Europe and the Mediterranean, by Elisée Reclus; Africa, by Dr. J. S. Keltie; The Russian Empire, by Prince Kropotkin; North America, by Professor I. C. Russell; and South America, by Professor J. C. Branner.

A. P. B.

Practical Forestry. By John Gifford, Assistant Professor of Forestry in Cornell University. 12mo, 284 pp. Illustrated: D. Appleton & Co.

This volume is designed for the general reader, for beginners in the subject, and for farmers and owners of country places. It is the first attempt to gather out the simpler facts and principles that are of common interest and present them in popular form. The author has done this with a fresh and contagious enthusiasm. He has incidentally made a good book for reference and supplementary reading in physical geography. Perhaps the most hopeful aspect of such works is in the enlargement of the popular intelligence and the promotion of good legislation.

The earlier chapters define forests and forestry, and treat of the more general uses of the forest, as in relation to the making, im-